



## PERSONAL SAFETY/AWARENESS

The following information has been put together to make you aware of some aspects of life which are completely different from those in the UK. It is not the purpose of this fact sheet and its information to sensationalise aspects of living in Cyprus but simply to allay any preconceptions you may have and to pass on words of advice from Cyprus Joint Police Unit (CJPU). Read this and you will be more informed and know from whom to seek advice should you wish to know more.

### *Driving in Cyprus*

#### *CARS*

The regulations for driving in Cyprus are in the main similar to those in the UK. Drivers should hold a current Driving Licence, valid Insurance, Tax and where necessary MOT certification. The driver should always ensure these documents are in the car and available upon demand.

Speed limits in Cyprus are slower than in the UK. Speeds are indicated in Kilometres per hour and are to be adhered to at all times.

Seat belts are compulsory in the front and rear of the car. Children under the age of 12 are obliged to sit in the back of the car. If there are no seat belts in the rear, it is acceptable for a child to sit strapped in the front. Children under the age of 1 are to travel in the rear with an adult unless restrained in a suitable baby seat or fitted harness; it is also acceptable, dependent on make of car, for a rear facing baby seat to be secured in the front passenger seat.

Should you be unlucky enough to have an accident whilst out and out, here are a few simple rules to follow:

- a. If the accident occurs within a Sovereign Base Area (SBA) immediately contact Cyprus Joint Police Unit (CJPU) or SBA Police.

Telephone numbers ESBA 24 74 4721

Telephone numbers WSBA 25 96 3300

- b. If the accident occurs in the Republic of Cyprus (ROC) contact CYPOL Central Office- Telephone number 25 805050

- c. When the accident occurs, if you are able to do so get out of the car but DO NOT under any circumstance leave the immediate vicinity of your car. If you have one, display a Warning Triangle to alert other traffic of an accident.

### *MOTORBIKES/MOPEDS*

#### Mopeds

In order to drive a moped in the SBAs and ROC you should hold a Provisional Driving Licence and be 17 years of age. The driver should also have passed a Compulsory Bike Test (CBT), although if the driver is already in possession of a Full Driving Licence and passed their driving test prior to 1 February 1997 the CBT is not necessary. L Plates should be on display and the wearing of a crash helmet is compulsory.

#### Motorbikes (125cc and above)

In order to drive a Motorbike in the SBAs and ROC the driver must be at least 18 years of age and in possession of a Full Category A UK Driving Licence. Once again the wearing of a crash helmet is compulsory.

#### *Using Local Taxis*

One of the safer forms of travelling in a taxi is to use those which have a Business Licence and work out of your military camp, and you can always make arrangements for one of these taxis to collect you at a certain time and place. Do remember also, that travelling in groups is always a safer option.

However if the above is not always possible and in order to stem the increase in numbers of incidents occurring whilst travelling alone in local taxis, CJPU have introduced **TAXI TEXT**. This initiative came into effect on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2004 and is simple to use.

Before entering a taxi CJPU are inviting you to text through the following information:

- a. Registration Number of the Taxi
- b. Pick Up Point
- c. Destination

If in the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA) text to: **9937 0322**

If in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) text to: **9937 0323**

Once the text message has been received by CJPU the sender will get the following back **CJPU RCVD**.

The sender should always ensure that the Caller ID Function is activated on their phone in order for CJPU to record from whom the message was sent.

**TAXI TEXT** Information cards are available at all Service Police Stations, HIVEs and Unit Families Offices.

### Clubsafe

Another initiative introduced by CJPU is 'Clubsafe'. Its aim is to ensure that everyone has the maximum of fun with the minimum of mishap and arrives home safely at the end of the evening.

Nobody is discouraged from going out and enjoying themselves, however, if you follow these few simple tips "fun" will be the only memory of your evening out:

- a. Don't go out on your own
- b. Only take enough money for the night
- c. Leave your credit cards secure at home in your accommodation block or SFA
- d. Agree the price for your taxi before you get in
- e. Don't fall asleep in a taxi
- f. Remember to use **TAXI TEXT**

In Cyprus there are a few more problems than are associated with going out clubbing in the UK. So when you go into Clubs the best advice is:

- a. Do not accept drinks from a stranger
- b. It is best not to accept offers of free shots from the bar
- c. Do not leave your drink when you go on the dance floor or to the loo

There have been incidents of drink spiking in the Clubs either by use of alcohol or drugs, so a degree of common sense is desirable. If you suspect an incident has occurred with your drink - DON'T DRINK IT - it's as simple as that. Remember if you have any suspicions report them to CJPU.

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<sup>i</sup> For more information on Driving Regulations/ TAXI TEXT and Club Safe contact: Crime Management Team on 2596 3548

<sup>ii</sup> Further Publications to look out for CJPJ Crime Reduction 'A Guide for Service Personnel and Families

ALL ABOVE ADVICE IS COURTESY OF Cyprus Joint Police Unit